Meet a Komodo Dragon

The Komodo dragon is the world’s largest living lizard. On average, they are nine feet long and weigh 200 pounds. Study the diagram to learn about the adaptations that help the Komodo survive.

**Tongue:** The Komodo detects the odors of its prey by capturing the air on its yellow forked tongue. The dragon does not have a strong sense of hearing or sight, but makes up for it with its keen sense of smell.

**Jaws:** The hinges of its jaws allow the dragon to open its mouth very wide.

**Stomach:** Its stomach expands to allow the dragon to eat as much as 80% of its own body weight in one meal.

**Saliva:** The dragon’s saliva has more than 50 strains of bacteria. Animals bitten by the dragon usually die within one day from poisoning. After the prey dies, the dragon returns to eat it.

**Teeth:** The dragon’s teeth are curved and serrated, like a saw.

1. Circle a feature that helps Komodo dragons find prey.
2. Which feature allows a Komodo to swallow large objects?
3. How does a Komodo’s saliva help it catch prey?
4. True or false: Komodo dragons use their sense of hearing to find food.
5. Which of the adaptations do you think is most important? Explain your answer.